

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 IGA-02 COME-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 OES-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSW BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6037

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0283

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BY, US
SUBJ: REITERATION OF BURUNDI INTEREST IN AMERICAN
DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE

1. ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF MY FIFTY MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH
PRESIDENT BAGAZA ON MARCH 17 WAS TAKEN UP WITH A GENERAL
REVIEW OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI, AND BAGAZA SAID
EXPLICITLY THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD PROMPTED HIM TO CALL FOR
THE MEETING. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY HIS
TALKS IN NOVEMBER WITH CONGRESSMAN DIGGS AND IN FEBRUARY
WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO THINK THAT BILATERAL AID
PROJECTS WOULD START SOON. HE WANTED TO URGE ME TO PRESS
AHEAD AN, INDEED, EVEN TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF AID
PLANNED.

2. I RESPONDED THAT THE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO START
BILATERAL AID IN BURUNDI, IN ADDITION TO OUR LONGSTANDING
MAJOR FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, HAD BEEN MADE LAST YEAR,
AND THAT THE FIRST DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE ATTACHE
(LAMBACHER) HAD ARRIVED HERE AT THE END OF FEBRUARY. THERE
WAS NO DOUBT OF OUR DESIRE TO GET THINGS UNDERWAY BECAUSE
WE APPRECIATED BURUNDI'S NEEDS. THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
RECENT ECA CONFERENCE IN KINSHASA HAD UNDERLINED THE
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PLIGHT OF THE POOREST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME,
WE WANTED TO BE SURE THAT OUR MODEST ASSISTANCE WOULD BE
USED EFFECTIVELY AND SENSIBLY.

3. BAGAZA SAID THAT BURUNDI WAS QUITE PREPARED TO HAVE
THE U.S. PROCEED WITH THE RURAL INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT IN MUYINGA PROVINCE IN WHICH THE U.S. HAD

INDICATED AN INTEREST. FOOD PRODUCTION AND RURAL IMPROVEMENT WERE HIS GOVERNMENT'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES, AND IT DID NOT CARE IN WHICH PROVINCE A FOREIGN DONOR UNDERTOOK TO WORK.

4. KNOWING OF SOME AID/W HESITATIONS ABOUT THE PRACTICABILITY OF THE MUYINGA PROJECT AS A FIRST TRYOUT FOR BILATERAL AID IN BURUNDI, I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT BEFORE WE FINALLY COMMITTED OURSELF TO MUYINGA, WE WANTED TO DISCUSS AT SOME LENGTH WITH MINISTERS AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS THE PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION THAT MIGHT ARISE. WE KNEW THAT SOME BURUNDI OFFICIALS HAD HAD DOUBTS ABOUT SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT, AND WE WANTED TO TALK THESE OUT RATHER THAN FORCE THROUGH OUR OWN CONCEPT. AFTER ALL, USAID HAD HAD EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA IN OTHER TYPES OF AID PROJECTS IF THE GOVERNMENT, AFTER REVIEW WITH US, CAME TO FEEL THESE TO BE MORE DESIRABLE. IN ANY CASE, ALTHOUGH OUR NEW AID OFFICER HAD BEEN PROMISED MANY TOP LEVEL MEETINGS HERE THREE WEEKS AGO, HE HAD SO FAR BEEN GRANTED APPOINTMENTS WITH ONLY THE TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE (DEPUTY MINISTERS) IN AGRICULTURE. THUS, THERE WERE STILL IMPORTANT PRELIMINARIES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

5. THE PRESIDENT APOLOGIZED FOR THE DELAYS AND SAID THAT BURUNDI'S BUREAUCRACY WAS WOEFULLY SHORT OF SKILLED ADMINISTRATORS AND OFTEN MADE MISTAKES IN ITS OPERATIONS. THAT WAS WHY IT WANTED ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD, AND HE WAS SURE THAT THE DESIRED MEETINGS WOULD SOON MATERIALIZE. THE MAIN THING WAS TO GET AMERICAN AID PROJECTS UNDERWAY

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BECAUSE THEY MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE WOULD SOLIDIFY BILATERAL UNDERSTANDING.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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